(c) Since QRs on these items are still to be lifted, exact impact on trade cannot be quantified. However, it may be noted that out of the 1429 tariff lines on which QRs are to be removed, 685 tariff lines are already importable against Special Import Licence (SIL). Hence, there is unlikely to be any perceptible serious impact on import-export trade in future due to the removal of QRs as were being maintained on BoP grounds.

Industrial and infrastructural investment in Maharashtra

*158. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of industrial and infrastructural investment or intent in Maharashtra during the last four years in comparison with other states;

(b) whether there is a downward trend in the State; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The details of industrial (including infrastructural) investment approved in the non-SSI sector during the last four years for Maharashtra and the country as a whole are as follows:—

Total investment (Domestic & Foreign)

(In Rs. Crore)

Year	Maharashtra	All India
1996-97	21032	148273
1997-98	11954	110929
1998-99	46067	121592
1998-99 (Apr—Dec)	21450	75065
1999-2000 (Apr—Dec)	33267	115657

Industrial investment approvals in Maharashtra follow the All India trend. The industrial investment approvals fell during 1997-98 for the state of Maharashtra and also for the country as a whole. This fall in industrial investment

approvals, *inter-alia*, is attributable to demand stagnation, high interest rate, corporate restructuring resulting in postponement of investment decisions and a sluggish export growth.

A State-wise break-up of industrial investment approvals in the non-SSI sector during the last four years is given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure no. 37]

Election guidelines issued by PCI

*159. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Press Council of India had issued guidelines to the media for the objective reporting of the Assembly elections held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that no newspaper shall publish exit poll surveys, however genuine they may be, till the last date of the polls is over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Press Council of India, through a press release on 2.2.2000, reiterated its guidelines of 1996 regarding publishing reports on elections. The guidelines, *inter-alia*, urge the media to report on elections objectively and:

(i) Not to indulge in unhealthy election campaigns or give exaggerated reports about any candidate/party.

(ii) Eschew reports promoting feelings of enmity or hatred on any grounds.

(iii) Exercise care while publishing pre-poll surveys and not publish exit poll surveys, in the event of staggered polls.

(c) The policy of the Government is to uphold the freedom of the press and it does not propose to interfere in the functioning of the press or the Press Council.